

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SY-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-05 NEA-05 ISO-00 /018 R

DRAFTED BY A/SY/FO:WHSARGENT:JP

APPROVED BY A/SY/FO - VERNE F. ST. MARS

A/SY/FO - C. HOLM

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

AF/EX - T. DAY

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R 021527Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TUNIS

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065596

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJECT: COM VEHICLE MODIFICATION

REFERENCE: TUNIS 1343, STATE 50337, TUNIS 1710 (ADDIS  
NOTAL)

BEIRUT FOR RTC; ADDIS FOR RSS/RTC

1. TWENTY KITS OF LEXAN WERE ORDERED FOR SHIPMENT/STORAGE  
TO NEW RTC IN ADDIS ABABA, FOR FURTHER USE WITHIN AF AREA.  
WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN THIS MATERIAL WILL ARRIVE SINCE LEXAN  
IS IN SHORT SUPPLY AND VENDORS CANNOT GIVE US ESTIMATE OF  
AVAILABILITY. SY/FO HAS NO UNCOMMITTED LEXAN ON HAND AND  
THEREFORE CANNOT SEND ANY TO YOUR POST.

2. WHEN COM'S 74 BUICK ELECTRA WAS BEING ARMORED BY SY/FO  
SEABEES, IN WASHINGTON, IT WAS CLOSELY EXAMINED TO DETERMINE  
FEASIBILITY OF INSTALLING TRANSPARENT ARMORED INSERTS IN  
SIDE WINDOWS. ALTHOUGH LEXAN CAN BE BRACKETED ONTO THE  
WINDOWS, IT WILL NOT DEFEAT A SIGNIFICANT BALLISTIC OR  
EXPLOSIVE THREAT. TRANSPARENT INSERTS WILL DEFEAT SIGNI-  
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FICANT BALLISTIC THREAT ONLY IF THE BRACKETS TO WHICH THE

INSERT IS ATTACHED CAN BE ANCHORED TO THE FRAME AROUND THE WINDOW ON THE DOOR. YOUR CAR, BEING A HARD-TOP, HAS NO SUCH FRAMING, NOR A CENTER POST. THEREFORE, THE INSERTS WOULD HAVE TO BE BRACKETED TO THE DOOR GLASS, WHICH MEANS THAT ANY

SIGNIFICANT BALLISTIC OR EXPLOSIVE FORCE APPLIED TO THE GLASS/INSERT ASSEMBLY WOULD CAUSE THE ENTIRE ASSEMBLY, WITH LEXAN INTACT, TO BE PROPELLED INTO THE PASSENGER COMPARTMENT OF THE CAR. CONSIDERING THE WINDSHIELD, IT IS QUESTIONABLE IF INSERTS COULD BE INSTALLED IN SUCH A WAY TO ELIMINATE UNSAFE DISTORTION IN VIEW OF COMPLEX CURVATURE AND ANGLE OF WINDSHIELD IN COM'S HARD-TOP. WE ARE STILL EXPERIMENTING TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM WITH DIFFERENT CARS. WE PREFERRED NOT TO USE YOUR COM IN THIS EXPERIMENT.

3. WHEN LEXAN BECOMES AVAILABLE TO RTC ADDIS ABABA, WE RECOMMEND RTC SEND SUFFICIENT QUANTITY TO TUNIS TO ATTEMPT TO DO ONE WINDSHIELD. RUSH

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